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SUBJECT: SEOUL - PRESS BULLETIN; October 22, 2009

TOP HEADLINES

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Chosun Ilbo

Although ROKG Denies Negotiating Inter-Korean Summit with N. Korea,  
Something Seems to be Afoot between Two Koreas

JoongAng Ilbo

94 Percent of Principals Surveyed Willing to Receive Evaluations  
from Teachers and Parents

Dong-a Ilbo

Two Family Members of an ROK Prisoner of War,  
who had been under Protection of ROK Consul General in Shenyang,  
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Hankook Ilbo

86 Percent of Lawmakers  
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Land Ministry Seeks to Shift Part of Costs of Four-River Restoration  
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List of Hospitals Performing Illegal Abortions to be Released

Seoul Shinmun

ROKG "Reluctant" to Disclose Details of  
Next Year's Budget Plan

DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS

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U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates arrived in Seoul yesterday for  
the annual Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) today with his ROK  
counterpart. (All) The two countries are expected to put in writing  
measures to defend the ROK under the concept of "extended  
deterrence." (Chosun, Dong-a, Hankook, Segye, Seoul)

The Defense Secretary said during a meeting with U.S. and ROK

service members: "Korea's international military contributions should be seen as what they are - something that is done to benefit your own security and vital interests." (All)

There are signs that something is going on between the two Koreas, although ROKG officials say that there is no need to rush an inter-Korean summit. First of all, the ROKG has formed a task force to deal with inter-Korean relations and to prepare for an inter-Korean summit. Second, when Kim Yang-gon, Director of the United Front Department at the North's Workers' Party, recently visited China, Won Dong-yon, an expert on the ROK, accompanied him. Third, Seoul plans to provide North Korea with optical cables and other equipment worth 900 million won to modernize an inter-Korean military communication line. (Chosun)

#### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, in an Oct. 21 speech at the U.S. Institute of Peace, said that the U.S. will not lift sanctions on North Korea nor normalize ties unless the North takes irreversible steps toward denuclearization. (Dong-a, all TVs)

#### MEDIA ANALYSIS

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-N. Korea

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Conservative Dong-a Ilbo and all TV networks gave attention to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's Oct. 21 speech at the U.S. Institute of Peace, in which she said that the U.S. will not lift sanctions on North Korea nor normalize ties unless the North takes irreversible steps toward denuclearization.

U.S. Defense Secretary Gates' Visit to Seoul  
All ROK media covered Defense Secretary Robert Gates' arrival in Seoul yesterday for the annual Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) today with his ROK counterpart. According to media reports, the two countries are expected to put in writing measures to defend the ROK under the concept of "extended deterrence," which uses the full range of American military might - from the nuclear umbrella to conventional strike and missile defense capabilities.

Most coverage highlighted the Defense Secretary's remarks during a meeting with U.S. and ROK service members, in which he said: "Korea's international military contributions should be seen as what they are - something that is done to benefit your own security and vital interests." Most media viewed this remark as intended for the ROK's deployment of troops to Afghanistan. Right-of-center JoongAng Ilbo wrote in the headline: "Gates Did Not Raise Afghan Issue, but Tone of His Speech was Indirect but Strong; Isn't It a Roundabout Way of Requesting Troop Dispatch?"

#### FEATURES

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GATES DID NOT RAISE AFGHAN ISSUE, BUT TONE OF HIS SPEECH WAS INDIRECT BUT STRONG; ISN'T IT A ROUNDABOUT WAY OF REQUESTING TROOP DISPATCH?"  
(JoongAng Ilbo, October 22, 2009, Page 3)

By Military Affairs Reporter Kim Min-seok

A close look at U.S. Defense Secretary Gates' speech at Yongsan Military Base

Indirect but strong tone... He emphasized the role of ROK troops, rather than boosting the morale of U.S. servicemen.

It was unprecedented. The speech that U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates gave to U.S. servicemen at Yongsan military base on October 21

was starkly different from his previous ones. His speech was not designed to cheer up U.S. soldiers, who are serving in a country far away from their hometowns. It was mainly about a call for the expansion of the role of the ROK military.

Secretary Gates did not directly mention the ROK's troop dispatch to Afghanistan. He used indirect but strong words. While talking about (Seoul's) troop deployments to Iraq and Vietnam, he said that the ROK's international military contributions are beneficial to the country's security and vital interests. In other words, Seoul's military contributions are not for the sake of the U.S. or the ROK-U.S. alliance but for the ROK's global stature. He seemed to stress that in order to achieve the Lee Myung-bak Administration's "Global Korea" plan, the ROK should make a voluntary contribution to the international community.

Judging from his language, Secretary Gates appeared to be mindful of a previous discord over the ROK's troop dispatch to Iraq. In 2003, the U.S. requested the ROK to send troops to Iraq, but it was not until two years later that the ROK was able to deploy the Zaytun Unit to the region. At that time, the argument that the ROK's troop dispatch would contribute to the ROK-U.S. alliance backfired in the ROK. It stirred up a lot of controversy.

It is also notable that he mentioned the role of ROK troops at a regional and global level. He said, "The recent announcement of a new, specialized peacekeeping unit in the ROK military is especially welcome." Secretary Gates went on to say that future ROK forces

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"will be not just more capable of defending the Korean Peninsula, but be a contributor to regional and global security as well." In an unusual remark, he also stressed that ROK political leaders should make an investment in defense.

Secretary Gates pledged to provide extended deterrence against North Korea's nuclear threat. Gates said that North Korea is pursuing nuclear weapons while engaging in proliferation of nuclear technology and ballistic missiles. He added that the peril posed by North Korea has become destabilizing not only to the Korean Peninsula but also to the Pacific Rim and the world. The defense secretary noted that the U.S. is committed to deter the North's threat through the nuclear umbrella, and conventional strike and missile defense capabilities.

Secretary Gates hinted that the transfer of the wartime operational control of ROK troops from Washington to Seoul will take place as planned in 2012. He said that the plan is "the culmination of a series of shifts toward greater responsibility," adding that "these shifts have reflected the evolution of the U.S. role - from protector of (the ROK) to the role of a full partner." Gates noted that the U.S. and the ROK should cooperate in the future on security issues such as non-proliferation, ballistic missile defense and (Northeast Asia) regional security cooperation including Japan.

2 KOREAS 'PREPARING FOR SUMMIT'  
(Chosun Ilbo, October 22, 2009, pages 1, 2: Excerpts)

By Reporters Ahn Yong-hyun and Lim Min-hyuk

A senior government source on Wednesday admitted that North Korea "now wants an inter-Korean summit." But when asked about details, he added, "No comment."

When an assistant U.S. defense secretary last week told reporters that North Korean leader Kim Jong-il invited President Lee Myung-bak to a summit, both Cheong Wa Dae and the White House denied it. But something seems to be afoot.

There is speculation about behind-the-scenes meetings between the two Koreas. Kim Yang-gon, the director of the North Korean Workers Party's United Front Department, took Won Dong-yeon, a ranking member of the Asia-Pacific Peace Committee, along on a visit to China on Oct. 15-20, which was uncommon.

Won was among working-level officials who drafted the declaration after the second inter-Korean summit in 2007. He also drafted an agreement signed by the prime ministers of the two Koreas that year and has worked behind the scenes of major inter-Korean talks over the past 20 years.

Prof. Kim Yong-hyun of Dongguk University said, "The fact that Kim Yang-gon, the North Korean official in charge of ROK affairs, was accompanied by Won suggests that Won was given some duties connected with inter-Korean relations."

A government official familiar with inter-Korean affairs said a taskforce has been launched to deal with entire inter-Korean relations and prepare for an inter-Korean summit, apparently consisting of civilians as well as government officials. Another source said the National Intelligence Service, the Unification Ministry and the Foreign Ministry are giving support to the taskforce.

Yet government agencies including Cheong Wa Dae have unanimously denied rumors about behind-the-scenes inter-Korean meetings, or have said that no government officials have attended such meetings.

Meanwhile, the government Wednesday said it will give materials and equipment worth W850 million (US\$1=W1,179) to North Korea for the modernization of inter-Korean military communication cables, calling it "essential" for overland passage between the two Koreas.

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(This is a translation provided by the newspaper, and it is identical to the Korean version.)

STEPHENS